

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following:

FIG. 2 is ~~a cross-sectional~~ an elevational view of the deflection clip of FIG. 1 operatively slidingly engaging the vertical framing member web during deflection between the framing assembly members.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following:

FIG. 3 is ~~a cross-sectional~~ an elevational view of only the deflection clip of FIG. 1.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following:

FIG. 4 is ~~a cross-sectional~~ an elevational view of a deflection clip similar to FIG. 3 but constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following:

FIG. 9 is ~~a cross-sectional~~ an elevational view of the deflection clip of FIG. 8.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following:

FIGS. 17 and 18 are isometric and ~~side~~ elevational views, respectively, of a clip constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention substantially similar to the clip of FIG. 1.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following:

Turning now to focus more particularly on the clip 100, which comprises a planar base plate 114 comprising a first surface 116 and an opposing second surface 118. The base plate 114 is adapted for fixed attachment to the first member 102, such as by

apertures 119 for accepting fasteners such as self-drilling screw member 121. A guide 120 depends from the base plate 114 comprising a first arm 122 extending from a proximal end adjacent the second surface 118. The guide 120 furthermore comprises one or more second arms 124 extending away from the base plate 114 oriented in the same direction as the first arm 122, defining a channel 126 therebetween. Although not explicitly shown, it will be understood that conventional strengthening features such as gussets and ribs can be incorporated into portions of the clip 100 as needed, and more particularly to strengthen the arms 122, 124.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following:

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional an elevational view of the clip 100 of FIG.1 with the web 128 omitted to better illustrate the channel 126. The opposing arms 122, 124 can be selectively spatially disposed to define the width 129 of the channel 126. By selectively setting the width 129 relative to the thickness 133 (FIG. 2) of the web 128, a desired frictional resistance to the operative sliding engagement is achieved. This is, in one embodiment the width 129 is substantially the same or greater than the thickness 133 so that the web 128 is receivably engaged within the channel 126. In an alternative embodiment the width is substantially less than the thickness 133, as in FIG. 4, so that the arms 122, 124 compressingly engage against the web 128, resulting in an operative positive engagement between the clip 100 and the second member 104.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following:

FIG. 8 is an isometric view of a clip 100B constructed in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention, offering an illustrative construction comprising an assembly of discrete components. The clip 100B has a base 114B

comprising a first surface 116B and an opposing second surface 118B. The clip 100B further comprises a guide 120B depending from the base 114B, the guide 120B comprising a first arm 122B extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base plate 114B from a proximal end adjacent the second surface 118B. The guide 120B further comprises a second arm 124B extending away from the base 114B oriented in the same direction as the first arm 122B defining a channel 126B between the arms 122B, 124B. The clip 100B is attachable to the horizontal framing member (not shown but as in FIG. 1) such as by fasteners passing through the apertures 119B in the base 114B. The guide 120B receivably engages the vertical member (not shown but as in FIG. 1) in a characteristic operative sliding relationship. FIG. 9 is a ~~cross sectional~~ an elevational view of the clip 100B, illustrating how in the same manner of clip 100A of FIGS. 6 and 7, the apertures 119B can be disposed symmetrically around the channel 126B to minimize moments imparted to the framing members during deflection.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following:

FIG. 11 is a cross sectional view of the clip 100C guide portion 120C slidingly engaging the vertical member web 128. The first arm 122C can be shaped to narrow the gap 126C so as to compressingly engage against the web 128 to provide a desired frictional resistance to the characteristic sliding engagement. For example[.], the first arm 122C of FIG. 11 has an angled portion 140 and an angled portion 142 extending outwardly from the bearing surface 123C to the arms 124C. Alternatively, the guide 120C' of FIG. 12 has a first arm 122C' defining more than one bearing surface 123C', in opposition to the bearing surfaces 125C of the opposing arms 124C'. In both cases it will be noted that the ~~length~~ lengths of the arms 124C are substantially longer than the flanges 130 they fit over. This permits use of a particular clip 100C with a number of studs 104

which might vary in size due to manufacturing tolerances. This can also advantageously permit use of a particular clip 100C with different types of studs 104, such as with both a drywall stud and a structural stud.